



Marathon Petroleum Company LP

539 South Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840
Telephone 419/422-2121
FAX 419/425-7040

March 27, 2020

*SENT VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL
(RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED)*

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environmental and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Box 7611 Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-7611
Re: DOJ No. 90-5-2-1-09915

Director, Air Enforcement Division
Office of Civil Enforcement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 2242-A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Ariel Rios Building South
Room 1119
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Associate Director
Air, Toxics, and Inspections Coordination Branch
(6 EN-A)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202

Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division
EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street (4APTMD-AEEB)
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Air and Radiation Division
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (AE - 17J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Attn: Compliance Tracker

Re: Notice of Force Majeure Event
Consent Decree in *United States v. Marathon Petroleum Company LP, et al.*
Case No. 1:12-cv-11544 (E.D. Mich.)

On behalf of Marathon Petroleum Company LP and Catlettsburg Refining, LLC, each of which is a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation (collectively, "MPC"), and pursuant to United States' and various states efforts to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), this letter serves as notice of a *force majeure* event under Paragraph 89 of the above-referenced Consent Decree. MPC requests temporary relief from certain provisions of the Consent Decree in support of its efforts to minimize risk of exposure and otherwise respond to COVID-19 without sacrificing the protection of human health and the environment at its refineries located in Canton, Ohio; Catlettsburg, Kentucky; Detroit, Michigan;

Garyville, Louisiana; Robinson, Illinois; and Texas City, Texas (each a “Covered Refinery,” as defined in the Consent Decree).

MPC is committed to safe and environmentally responsible operation of its operating sites and fully embraces the emergency actions necessary to protect public health. To protect its employees, site contractors, and the general public, MPC is seeking to temporarily limit certain on-site activities by company personnel and contract personnel as part of its larger COVID-19 response to reduce social contact and comport with the “social distancing” guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the President of the United States through his “Coronavirus Guidelines for America” issued on March 16, 2020. These guidelines recommend avoiding close contact with other individuals (within 6 feet), avoidance of social gatherings of more than 10 people, avoiding discretionary travel, and working from home whenever possible. In addition, various states and cities have issued “stay-at-home” orders for those not engaged in critical work activities.

As a member of a critical infrastructure industry, MPC has a special responsibility to continue the safe and environmentally responsible operation of our facilities to ensure fuel supplies are maintained so that other critical infrastructure continues to function during the ongoing pandemic. We have already instituted a “work-from-home” policy for non-essential personnel consistent with CDC guidance. Despite many of the present actions taken by governments and businesses, the virus continues to spread. Many more cases are being reported daily. We believe that additional restrictions to site personnel will likely be necessary to slow the spread and protect our operations and maintenance personnel essential to running our assets safely and reliably. These steps could include, but are not limited to, restricted access for third-party contractors, further restriction of on-site staff to only core operating and maintenance personnel, and reduction of laboratory personnel. As continued restrictions persist, we are also preparing for potential consequences in the supply chain, including inability to transport samples to third-party laboratories and inability to receive consumables.

To achieve the common goal of inhibiting the spread of COVID-19, some periodic sampling, testing, recordkeeping and reporting activities required under the Consent Decree can and should be deferred during the present phase of the response in order to protect essential personnel necessary for safe refinery operations. These actions can be safely and responsibly deferred then resumed as soon as conditions are appropriate.

MPC, therefore, submits this notice to the United States that ongoing events surrounding COVID-19 constitute a *force majeure* event under Paragraph 89 of the Consent Decree, and that the events may delay performance of certain obligations under the Consent Decree. Obligations under the Consent Decree that may be delayed due to the *force majeure* event include, but are not limited to, those that require third-party contractors or other non-essential personnel to be physically present at the refineries; that require international, interstate or other currently-restricted travel by employees or contractors; that require international or interstate shipment of samples for analysis; or that require actions of third parties (e.g., accredited laboratories) that may also have personnel and resource limitations or restrictions due to their own or their political jurisdictions’ responses to COVID-19.

Central to MPC's claim of *force majeure* is the recognition that many of these activities drive increased social interactions with third-party contractors that enter and leave our facilities, and other neighboring facilities, daily. Some of the functions identified in this letter also require contractors and consultants to engage in significant travel and overnight accommodations, which further increases the chances of spreading the virus. This runs counter to the "social distancing" recommendations from the CDC, the President of the United States, and various state and city directives. Complicating matters further, many contractors and consultants will be not be reporting daily to their normal workplaces and have instituted travel bans for their employees, meaning there is a shortage of qualified personnel to complete certain regulatory requirements. Even though we are prepared to conduct much of our work remotely, it is unprecedented to carry out certain work entirely via remote communications, and indeed impossible to carry out others. As reflected in this notice, most of the anticipated delays in compliance reflect a focus on responsibly minimizing onsite activities and social interaction and a lesser access to complete information due to self-isolation (e.g., employee or contractor personnel held home, sick or quarantined).

This letter is intended to serve as an initial, advance notification that the ongoing events surrounding COVID-19 constitute a *force majeure* event. Events surrounding COVID-19, and the efforts of MPC and federal, state, and local authorities to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus remain fluid. Accordingly, MPC intends to supplement this advance notification with additional information to support this claim of *force majeure* as set forth in Paragraph 89 of the Consent Decree.

Significantly, the obligations that may be delayed by the *force majeure* event described in this letter will not, in MPC's judgment, cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health, welfare, or the environment.

We believe that by taking these measures, we can do our part to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This notice of *force majeure* covers only those provisions requiring activities that are inconsistent with implementation of MPC's COVID-19 response, while maintaining safe and environmentally responsible operation. If you have any questions about this request, please contact me with any questions at 419-421-3871 or racade@marathonpetroleum.com.

Sincerely,



Ruth A. Cade
Director, Refining Environmental & Assurance
Marathon Petroleum Company LP

Electronic Copy in .pdf format to:
parrish.robert@epa.gov
foley.patrick@epa.gov
dickens.brian@epa.gov